

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An indicator comprising a light-guiding layer, a cladding layer on one surface of said light-guiding layer, and a patterning layer on the other surface.
2. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said light-guiding layer has a thickness of between 100 and 250 micrometers.
3. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said light-guiding layer comprises thermoplastic polymer.
4. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said light-guiding layer comprises polycarbonate.
5. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said patterning layer comprises areas of generally opaque colorant and areas without colorant.
6. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said indicator is in the form of a strip.
7. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said indicator is in the form of a disk.
8. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said patterning layer comprises a silver halide image.
9. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said photosensitive silver halide comprises a silver halide emulsion capable of forming a black and white indicia having a density of greater than 2.5

10. The indicator of claim 9 wherein said silver halide emulsion is capable of forming an image having a contrast between 0.51 and 0.95.

11. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said patterning layer comprises a thermal dye transfer image.

12. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said patterning layer comprises an ink jet image.

13. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said indicator is provided with a light input area at the edge of said indicator.

14. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said indicator is provided with a light input area in the patterning layer or cladding layer.

15. The indicator of claim 5 wherein said patterning layer is provided with areas without color that are adapted to be read by multiple sensors.

16. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said light-guiding layer comprise colorant.

17. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said cladding layer comprises a polymer with an index of refraction of at least 0.05 less than the index of refraction of the light guiding layer.

18. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said cladding layer comprises a metal with a reflectivity of at least 95% at 500 nanometers.

19. The indicator of claim 1 wherein said cladding layer comprises a pattern.

20. A method of controlling position comprising providing a indicator comprising a light-guiding layer, a cladding layer on one surface of said light-guiding layer, and a patterning layer on the other surface, applying a light source to said indicator, detecting light in said patterning layer as said indicator moves past said light source, and controlling position of a movable device in response to detected light.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said light source comprises a collimated light source.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein detecting light in said patterning layer is carried out in more than one location.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein said applying of a light source to said indicator is at an edge of said indicator.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein said indicator is provided with a light input area in the patterning layer or cladding layer.

25. The indicator of claim 20 wherein said cladding layer comprises a polymer with an index of refraction of at least 0.05 less than the index of refraction of the light guiding layer.

26. The indicator of claim 20 wherein said cladding layer comprises a pattern.

27. The indicator of claim 20 wherein said patterning layer comprises areas of generally opaque colorant and areas without colorant.